

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 - 4, 7 - 10, and 12 - 15 are pending.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) for allegedly being anticipated by Brazas Jr. et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,696,749.

It is noted with appreciation that claims 5, 6, and 8 - 11 are deemed to recite allowable subject matter.

In order to bring prosecution of the instant application to a speedy conclusion, the claims have been amended without prejudice or disclaimer to recite the allowable subject matter.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 5. Claim 1 has been additionally amended to correct grammatical informalities. Claim 5 has been canceled.

Claim 6 has been re-written in independent form. Dependent claims 11 - 15 have been added.

Claim 7 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 11. Claim 11 has been canceled.

Claim 8 has been written in independent form.

Appl. No. 10/731,599
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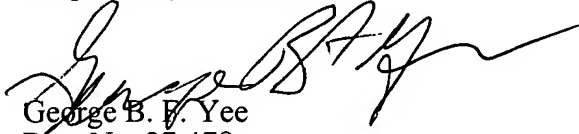
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, all claims now pending in this Application are believed to be in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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